

Overview of The Passaic River Superfund Community Advisory Group

The Passaic River CAG provides advice and recommendations to the US Environmental Protection Agency and other state and federal agencies to help ensure a more effective and timely cleanup and restoration of the Passaic River. The CAG is currently providing input to the planning for removal of 40,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment as part of the Phase I removal project.

The CAG consists of 18 diverse local stakeholders and 5 liaison members from EPA, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, the National Air and Oceanic Administration, and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The CAG is organized and managed by the community with support from EPA and the services of a neutral facilitator to support the overall process and individual meetings.

CAG members give voice to key segments of the community and work with other stakeholders to understand and consider complex environmental issues and to ensure that EPA hears critical community concerns, issues, and recommendations.

The total personal commitment for CAG members is approximately 8 hours per month. CAG members participate in the following ways:

- Attend monthly meetings of the CAG, held on the second Thursday of each month from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM.
- Serve on at least one subcommittee, and attend any special meetings or tours as scheduled. At present, there are three subcommittees of the CAG: Communication and Outreach, Jobs and Local Contracting, and Health and Safety.
- CAG members communicate regularly with neighbors and other stakeholders to keep them informed about CAG activities and to ensure that their issues and concerns are voiced at CAG meetings.

In addition to the time commitments, CAG members work cooperatively with each other and the supporting agencies. In particular, CAG members:

- are respectful of all participants,
- approach all issues and viewpoints with an open mind,
- work to ensure that their concerns and issues are articulated in a way that all stakeholders can understand,
- seek common ground where it is possible.

For more information, visit www.ourpassaic.org or contact:

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